

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated February 15, 2008. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections presented therein. All rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 – 14, 29, and 36 – 42 are now pending in this case.

Claims 1 – 2, 5 – 6, 8 – 12, and 29 have been amended.

New claims 36 – 42 have been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

At pages 2 – 5 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 7, 12, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rodman et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0103864 (hereinafter “Rodman”) in view of Slobodin et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0072429 (hereinafter “Slobodin”).

Applicant’s claim 1, representative in part of the other rejected claims, sets forth (emphasis added):

1. A method for initiating an online meeting over a data network between a host party with a first computer and an attendee party with a second computer, where a phone connection exists over a telephone network between a first phone of the host party and a second phone of the attendee party, the method comprising:
 receiving a start meeting command at a first adaptor coupled to the first phone and the first computer;
 in response to the first adaptor receiving the start meeting command, causing the first computer to send a start meeting message over the data network to a data center;
 receiving a meeting identification from the data center;
 storing the meeting identification in a the first adaptor; and
 transmitting the meeting identification from the first adaptor over the telephone network to a second adaptor, which is coupled to both the second phone and the second computer.

Rodman discloses a technique for initiating and conducting a data conference between a plurality of conference endpoints linked in communication by a network. *See*

Rodman, Abstract. “To initiate a data conference, one of the participating conference endpoints sends a conference initiation request over the network to a conference server...Upon receipt of the conference initiation request, the conference server generates a conference code that uniquely identifies the data conference. The conference code is transmitted over the network to the requesting conference endpoint.” See Rodman, paragraph 0012.

Slobodin discloses a “dataconferencing appliance [that] is connected to a data network that links the sites independently of the voice call network.” See Slobodin, abstract. The local site “includes a local speakerphone including a local dataconferencing appliance. A local display device, such as a projector, and an image source, such as a laptop computer, are also connected to local dataconferencing appliance.” See Slobodin, paragraph 0048 and Fig. 1, data conferencing appliance 112, phone 110, computer 116, projector 114. To establish a data communication session between local and remote sites, a user activates a conferencing appliance which uses its internal telephone adaptor 140 to begin an access negotiation procedure. See Slobodin, paragraph 0051. As part of the access negotiation procedure, a “network device access code is communicated by generating an audio signal representative of the network device access code and transmitting it within the voice call session. In response to receipt of the audio signal at the second site, the access negotiation procedure of the dataconference control unit at the second site uses its network interface module and the received network device access code to join a data communication session between the sites via the data network....” See Slobodin, paragraph 0011.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Rodman and Slobodin does not teach or suggest Applicant’s claimed *“in response to the first adaptor receiving the start meeting command, causing the first computer to send a start meeting message over the data network to a data center.”*

In Applicant’s system, a first adaptor is coupled to a first computer. When the first adaptor receives a start meeting command, the first adaptor causes a first computer coupled to it to send a start meeting message over the data network to a data center. In

contrast, the local conference endpoint in Rodman is not connected to a separate computer. Rodman discloses a system where one unit, the local conference endpoint, performs all the operations necessary to initiate a data conference, rather than interacting with other devices. Accordingly, Rodman does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed ***"in response to the first adaptor receiving the start meeting command, causing the first computer to send a start meeting message over the data network to a data center."***

The deficiencies of Rodman are not remedied by combination with Slobodin. In Slobodin, a dataconference appliance (Fig. 1, 112) is connected directly to a voice network (146) and a data network (132). The data conference appliance identifies a network access code that is then communicated to another data conference appliance (122) via the voice network (132). Eventually, a data communication session between the two data upward conference appliances (112, 122) may be established using the data network (132). While a computer (116) may be connected to a data conferencing appliance (112), it is not caused ***to send a start meeting message over the data network to a data center***. Instead, Slobadin envisions the computer to operate as an "image source" (*see* paragraph 0048) that supplies frames of image data to be viewed in the conference. Therefore, the computer that is connected to the dataconference appliance in Slobodin operates quite differently than what Applicant claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Rodman, and Slobodin is legally insufficient to render the present claims unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 because of the absence in Rodman and Slobodin of Applicant's claimed ***"in response to the first adaptor receiving the start meeting command, causing the first computer to send a start meeting message over the data network to a data center."***

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

At pages 5 – 7 of the Office Action, claims 8 – 11, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rodman in view of Slobodin in further view of Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,959,072 (hereinafter “Lee”).

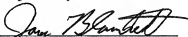
Claims 8 – 11, 13, and 14 are dependent claims that depend from independent claims believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 8 – 11, 13, and 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance for this as well as other separate reasons.

Should the Examiner believe a telephonic interview would be helpful in the disposition of this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 951-2500.

In summary, all independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and therefore all dependent claims that depend there from are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable action.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,


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